Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

The major factors responsible for losses for power utilities *inter alia*, include theft of power, high technical losses, over staffing in utilities, poor metering, billing and collection, irrational tariff and non-payment of subsidies by the Government.

The Government of India has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, *inter alia*, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitised under tripartite agreements.

Allocation of power to Karnataka from Eastern Region

3664. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for allotment of 337 MW of power from the Eastern Region to offset the effect of the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel based power projects;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the time likely to be taken in allotment of 337 MW of power to Karnataka from NTPC plants in Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) As per information available, the Government of Karnataka had approached Ministry of Power in July, 2004 for allocation of additional 337 MW of power from Eastern Region (ER) to offset the effect of the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel based power projects in Karnataka. The

availability of unallocated power in the ER is limited and allocated to needy States from time to time keeping in view power shortages, emergent/ seasonal requirements of various States. Further, the constituents of the ER claimed back their surrendered share in NTPC stations, which in turn has reduced the availability of power in ER for allocation to States outside ER. Thus additional allocation of power from the ER to Karnataka to offset the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel private projects was not considered practicable.

Shortfall of power during ensuing summer

3665. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the extent of power shortfall in the country is expected to grow hugely in the coming summer months when demand peaks;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning any steps to manage this shortfall and ensure uninterrupted supplies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Energy shortage in the country during the summer months (April-July, 2005) is anticipated to be of the order of 4% of the total energy requirement of the country as compared to 6% during the same period last year.

(b) and (c) The following measures are being taken to augment availability of power in the country during ensuing summer months:

(i) Export of power from surplus regions to deficit regions.

(ii) Load mangement:-Imposition of statutory power cuts/restriction and load shedding by State Government/Power Utilities from time to time depending upon the availability of power.

(iii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro/thermal/nuclear gas turbine power station in the regional power system to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.

(iv) Installation of shunt capacitors to improve voltage profiles of regional grids.

(v) Import of coal to bridge the gap between demand and availability of domestic coal and consequently enhance generation from coal based power stations.